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ABSTRACT

In the one-day annual Fair, students from junior and senior high schools in Dade County participate in a variety of activities including displays, slide shows, plays, films, debates, and a college bowl competition. The events provide opportunities for students to demonstrate their knowledge and skills in the social studies and exchange ideas with students from other schools. The theme for 1972 was Youth in Action, and topics for the entries were in the areas of geography, history, civics, sociology, psychology, and contemporary affairs. Several portions of the Fair were broadcast on the school system's radio station WTHS-FM. The Dade County Social Studies Council sponsors the Fair. In existence for several years, the Council is composed of student representatives from participating schools. It was organized to plan activities that would permit students to meet and discuss the social sciences and current issues with fellow students. Over 30 schools now participate in the Council and the Fair. This year's budget for the Fair will be approximately $1,000 with a significant part of this amount supplied by donations from the community. A unique aspect of the Fair is that a student organization from an entire school district plans and conducts the event. Because they come from diverse backgrounds, the students must quickly organize and learn to work together to plan a successful Fair. James Fleming, Social Studies Consultant for the Dade County Public Schools, serves as a club sponsor, and teachers from Dade County Public Schools serve as advisors to clubs in their schools and assist their students with Fair projects. (Relevant ERIC documents are listed at the end of the Profile.) (JIB)

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profiles of promise 3
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ISSUE NO. 3

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PROFILES OF PROMISE are descriptive brochures that highlight innovative social studies and some education practices, which teachers and administrators can easily adapt to their own classrooms or schools.

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# III ANNUAL DADE COUNTY SOCIAL STUDIES FAIR

*Above the model of a cracking world is written, "Sometimes we think the world should be closed for repairs." A four-foot Eiffel Tower is constructed of hundreds of drinking straws. A drug abuse game features directions on how to destroy your life with drugs. A model of the Roman Coliseum is complete with lions. Another model represents World War I trench warfare. Paintings depicting American life are all around. On stage, students are role-playing a scene in which everyone dies from air pollution.*

Miami, Florida's Bayfront Auditorium is alive with students. They stand proudly beside their projects or walk slowly around the huge room examining the work of others. They are participating in the Dade County Social Studies Fair.

The Fair is sponsored by the Dade County Social Studies Council. Students from junior and senior high schools in Dade County participate in a variety of activities including displays, slide shows, plays, films, debates, and a college bowl competition. All the events provide opportunities for students to demonstrate their knowledge and skills in the social studies and to interchange ideas and experiences with students from other schools.

This year's theme was "Youth in Action," and the students produced the "best Fair yet," according to James A. Fleming, Social Studies Consultant for the Dade County Public Schools. Student entries included visual displays and film, tape, and slide productions. Topics for the entries were in the areas of geography, history, civics, sociology, psychology, and contemporary affairs.

Debates, plays, and the brain brawl were broadcast by students on the school system's radio station, WTHS-FM. Interviews of students entering visual displays were also broadcast.

## GOALS

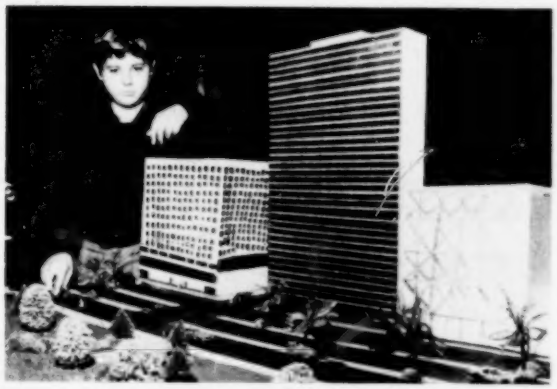
The Dade County Social Studies Council, composed of student representatives from participating schools, is involved in a wide range of activities and projects in addition to the annual Fair. The Council has been in existence for several years. Designed to provide a forum for students to discuss and study the social sciences, it has been active in attempting "to stimulate the interest of Dade County students in social sciences." The constitution of the Council includes among its purposes "to give recognition to those...students who excel in the study and awareness of the social studies." Joe Geller, student president, describes the organization as "youths interested in social studies, in promoting social studies to the general public, and in offering interested students at the various schools the opportunity to make their views known."

## HOW IT BEGAN

Frances Duncan, a social studies teacher at Miami Senior High School, organized the Council in response to a request from several of her students. They wanted some type of competition in social studies with students from other high schools. Frances agreed to set up tests in the various social sciences to be taken by interested students. These sessions soon had the students talking with one another, debating current topics, and discussing issues pertinent to their studies.

In 1969, the Dade County Social Studies Council was formally organized to plan activities that would permit students to meet and discuss the social sciences and current issues with their fellow students.

A paper mache' mask created by students Fred Outler, Walter Reddick, and George Ellis, eighth graders (left to right) -- Allapattah Jr. H.S., Miami, Fla.



A model city on Biscayne Blvd., Miami, Fla., created by seventh grade student, Alan Magluta.

"Hand of Prejudice, Hand of Hope," by Amy Hackmyer, Susan Levin and Ellen Saks.

At first, only a few high schools were actively involved. All schools were invited to join the Council, but for various reasons, few did. In the last year, however, many new schools have joined, including several junior high schools. Over 30 schools now participate in the Council and the Fair.

There is only a small financial expenditure for the Council, and this is absorbed by Fleming's office. An example of such expenditures is the advertising of the program to the various schools. Teachers who work with the Council volunteer their time.

The Fair itself is more costly. This year's budget will be approximately $1,000 and will be paid for in various ways. In the beginning, when the Fair was small, it was held in various school auditoriums in Miami and the Board of Education assumed the costs. Money was also allocated by the Board for ribbons, plaques, certificates, trophies, and materials for decorations. As the Fair grew larger, however, it had to be moved to Miami's Bayfront Auditorium. Cost for the Auditorium is $500.00, and students solicit donations from interested community groups and businesses to pay for it. Other Fair costs are also paid for out of donations. A local junior college contributes cash scholarship awards as prizes.

The Miami community has shown growing interest in the work of the Council and in the Fair. The **Miami News** has agreed to serve as cosponsor for the 1973 Fair. The students believe this is only the beginning of increased community awareness and support.

## MAKING IT WORK

At the beginning of each school year, announcement of an organizational meeting of the Dade County Social Studies Council is sent to all junior and senior high schools in the county. Schools wishing to join elect delegates to the Council. Three voting delegates for each senior high school and one voting delegate from each junior high school attend the monthly meetings. A teacher-sponsor and any interested students may attend as observers.

The main discussion topic in the beginning of the year is the Fair; planning is begun early. Committees are appointed, each with responsibility for a specific part of the Fair. For the 1972 Fair, one committee prepared for the debate competition by selecting the topic, "Resolved: Draft Evaders be Given Amnesty." Another committee created questions for the brain brawl, a college bowl type competition in which teams from individual schools compete against each other. A third committee selected prizes for the awards, while still another committee handled Fair publicity. Most of these committees are composed of students from several schools; those involved with decorations, ushers, and hosts usually come from one school.

After the committees are organized, actual work on the Fair gets underway. Individual contests are held within schools to select entrants for the Fair. Unfortunately, this has to be done to limit the number of entries. There are literally thousands of entries each year.

Students enter audio visual projects, such as films, slide-tape presentations, and audio tapes. Visual projects include models, paintings, photographs, or anything the students' imaginations can conjure. Junior high entries are classed by subject areas, which include civics, geography, American history, and contemporary affairs. Senior high classes are American government, American history, economics, psychology, and sociology. Students also compete in debates, plays, and the brain brawl quiz.

Judges for the various categories are selected by the Council's teacher-advisors. This year the majority of the judges were local school personnel. Points are awarded for each category of competition: three points are given for first place, two for second, and one for third. Trophies, plaques, ribbons, and cash scholarships are given to the winning students, while the county social studies trophy is awarded to the school accumulating the greatest number of points.

The Fair lasts one day—a Friday—from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Many teachers from elementary schools as well as junior and senior high schools bring their classes to the Fair, so that they can see projects produced by their fellow students.

## WHO DOES WHAT

James Fleming believes that a unique aspect of the Dade County Social Studies Fair is that a student organization from an entire school district plans and conducts the event. Because they come from diverse backgrounds, the students must quickly organize and learn to work together to plan a successful Fair. While the spirit of competition is important to the Fair, the spirit of cooperation is also crucial.

Fleming serves as club sponsor. Occasionally he advises the students not to do something, based on his own past experience; however, he readily accepts their decision if they reject the advice.

Teachers from Dade County schools serve as advisors to social studies clubs in their schools and assist their students with Fair projects. There is little teacher involvement in the monthly meetings, although many do attend.

Many principals lend time, personnel, and buildings to the program. The various school administrations play a minor role in the Council, although Fleming notes that in schools where the principal is supportive of the Council, more student interest and support is generated.

## FUTURE PLANS

Fleming is very proud of the work of the Dade County Social Studies Council and the success of the annual Social Studies Fair. He points to the growth in the number of schools and students involved in the program as an indicator of its success. The theme of the Fair, the categories of competition, and the types of projects that students enter enhance and support the goals of the Dade County social studies program. A specific example of the Fair's influence is a course offering called "Seminar in Social Studies." Students and teachers determine the goals for this course and the means for achieving them. Those who wish may become involved in major projects, including the Fair.

The Council is beginning to explore new projects and to expand its activities beyond the Fair. In 1972, some work was done by Council members in the Florida youth primary and in voter registration drives.

Student involvement, inter-school cooperation, and active participation make the Dade County Social Studies Council and its annual Social Studies Fair a true "Profile of Promise."

### PRIZE-WINNING ENTRIES IN THE 1972 SOCIAL STUDIES FAIR

Video tape documentary of Florida youth primary with speeches by major Presidential candidates (Senior High - American Government)

Masks depicting the roles of African tribal members (Junior High - Black Studies Class)

Model of the city of Miami with projections for future transportation growth (Senior High - American Government)

Model of "Hand of Prejudice" with two of the five fingers crossed in hope; decorated with a picture collage depicting conflict areas in the world (Senior High - Sociology)

Food stand serving native dishes of countries around the world (Junior High - Geography)

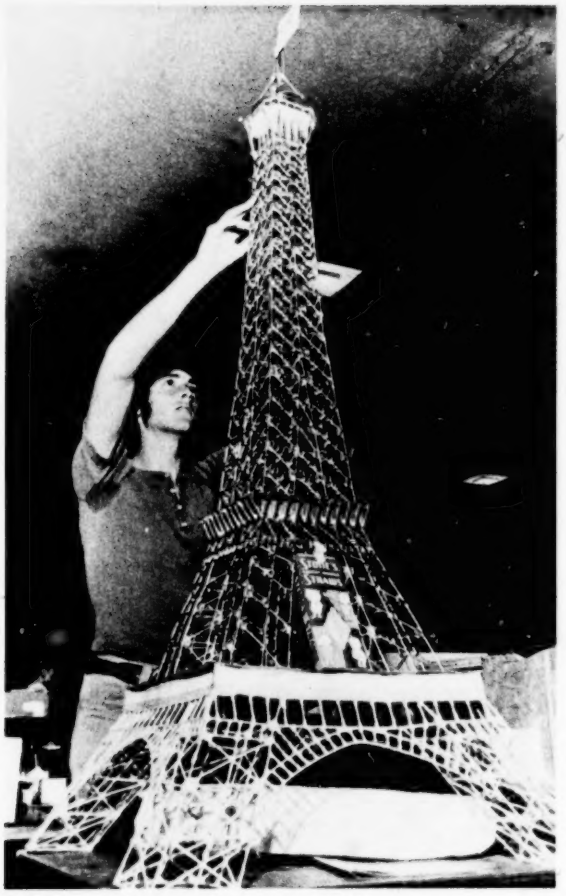
Native dances of countries around the world with students wearing native costumes (Junior High - World Geography)

Display on the geographic and political aspects of Cuban life by students of Cuban background (Junior High - Geography)

Coral Gables High's Mike Friend presents his case as teammate Danny Kolber takes notes during debate finals competition at the Third Annual Social Studies Fair in Bayfront Auditorium, Tuesday, March 9. Friend and Kolber defeated representatives from Miami Beach High.
(Miami-Metro Dept. of Publicity & Tourism photo)

"Here and Now" -- Humanities display by a Humanities class at Miami Norland Sr. High School.

Donald Bain portrays the President of the U.S. in a play where everyone dies of polluted air. The play, written by Bain, was presented by Miami Sr. High students as part of the Third Annual Social Studies Fair.
(Miami-Metro Dept. of Publicity & Tourism photo)



Painted soda straws create a model Eiffel Tower, by Billy Blumenkranz, a ninth grade student at Nautilus Jr. H.S., Miami, Fla.

If you know of other significant practices write a one page description, including the name and address of a person to contact for further information, and send to: **PROFILES OF PROMISE,** 855 Broadway, Boulder, Colorado 80302

For more information

WRITE:

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**ERIC Documents**

**ED 026 718 - "Strategies for Determining Exhibit Effectiveness" - MF $1.00, HC $12.30**

**ED 028 936 - "Relationship Between Performance on a Scientific Creativity Test and Participation in a Science Fair" - University Microfilms, 300 N. Zeeb Road, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48106 $3.00**

**ED 037 350 - "Out-of-School Science Activities for Young People" UNESCO Publications Center, 317 East 34th St., New York, New York 10016 $2.00**

**ED 044 295 - "Conservation Science Fair Projects" - MF $.25, HC not available**

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